

CONFIDENTIAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE INFORMATION**What is Abuse?**

"Abuse" means battering or subjecting a person to extreme cruelty by:

- (1) physical acts that result in or threaten to result in physical injury
- (2) sexual abuse
- (3) sexual activity involving a child in the home
- (4) participation in sexual activities against her will
- (5) threats of, or attempts at, physical or sexual abuse
- (6) mental abuse
- (7) neglect or deprivation of medical care
- (8) economic abuse
- (9) tactics of power and control; and/or
- (10) stalking.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, SEE OTHER
SIDE OF THIS FORM**

What You Should Know

1. If you disclose any current information about reportable child abuse, DPSS employees/contractors are mandated by law to report it. However, all other information about your abuse is confidential.
2. If you are a battered immigrant woman, and you are married to a United States citizen or legal permanent resident, you and/or your children may be eligible to apply for residency and participate in the welfare-to-work program. For additional information, the number for an immigration advocate is on the community resource list DPSS gave you. We do NOT report to the Immigration Naturalization Service (INS) but are required to give information to the INS only when asked.

Domestic Violence Services

If you are being abused or are in fear of abuse, you may be eligible to receive supportive services. (Supportive services include counseling, child care, legal assistance, transportation, etc.) Because violence is common in women's lives, the Department of Public Social Services gives everyone information about community resources that can help victims of abuse. If abuse is happening in your life, we can work together to develop your welfare-to-work plan in a way that keeps you safe. You may not have to meet certain program requirements while domestic violence is happening in your life.

At this time, do you wish to declare that you are abused or in fear of abuse? If so, would you like to confidentially talk with someone about your situation? We can refer you to someone who can help. Declaring abuse in no way requires you to live in a shelter. A domestic violence agency is there to assist you.

I have reviewed the information on this form with staff.

X _____ Date
General Relief Applicant/Participant

I declare under penalty of perjury that I am abused, have been abused, or fear being abused.

X _____ Date
General Relief Applicant/Participant

COUNTY USE ONLY

Is Participant/Applicant accepting Domestic Violence Services at this time? _____ Yes _____ No

Does the Participant/Applicant need immediate services? _____ Yes _____ No
(Staff should complete this box only if the applicant/participant discloses abuse)

Name of Staff reviewing this form with Participant/Applicant

Title

Date

DEFINITIONS

Physical Abuse: Spit, slap, shake, shove pushes, throws, hits, restrains, beats, clubs or beats with an instrument, kicks, burns you or your children.

Sexual Abuse: Pressures you into sex, physically forces you into sex, sexual attack followed by violence, has affairs and shares the information.

Threats of Violence: Threatens to hurt or kill you, your family, friends, children, co-workers, suspected lovers, threatens you or others with guns, knives, or other weapons.

Attacks on Property, Pets or Acts of Intimidation: Smashes, destroys belongings; tells you things such as: "you can be next"; acts that threaten to harm your reputation with co-workers, family, etc., (e.g., lying about you). Hurts pets. Soils, rips, tears, shreds, or destroys your personal property (especially clothes or sentimental objects).

Emotional Abuse: Makes you feel (or tells you) that you are stupid, fat, clumsy, ugly or worthless. Embarrasses, makes fun of you or degrades you in front of others. This is not just arguing, or domestic disagreements/fights, but a pattern meant to frighten and/or isolate you.

Use of Children: Threatens to take the children and keep them from you; intimidates or abuses the children (which is reportable).

Isolation: Keeps you from seeing/visiting family and friends; will not let you talk privately with friends or family. Won't let you keep in touch with family or friends; won't let you write or call your family or friends. Tells you who you can see or talk to; limits the amount of time you do spend or talk to family or friends.

Economic Coercion: Controls money. Controls check and savings accounts. Doesn't give you money or give you enough money for needed items; keeps earnings and bank account information secret.

Neglect or Deprivation of Medical Care: Cancels doctor's appointments, refuses to purchase medication, withholds medication, won't let you go see a doctor or dentist when you are sick or hurt.

Tactics of Power and Control: Tries to make the hitting or abuse seem unimportant or that it is your fault. Denies or blames the abuse on you and/or others, coerces and/or threatens you and/or family members. Checks up on you, who you see, who you talk to. Checks your odometer. Makes you tell everywhere you go and everyone you see.

Stalking: Harasses, terrorizes, repeatedly follows you, makes unsolicited phone calls, sends you unwanted gifts or letters, destroys property.